REMARKS

Since many claims are being canceled, only claims 24 – 28 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite. These certainly do claim apparatus other than audio-video equipment but it is not understood how these claims can be viewed as performing the function of audio-video equipment. Perhaps recitations of the control of audio-video functions within the apparatus created confusion. If so, claim 24 has been amended to recite that a "specific function" of the apparatus other than audio-video equipment is being controlled, rather than an "audio-video" function. Dependent claims specify this "specific function" to be controlling a sound source within the apparatus. However, if the undersigned has misunderstood the basis for this rejection, a telephone interview with the Examiner would be very useful to resolve anything that may remain.

Reconsideration of the rejection of claims 24 – 28 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is respectfully requested. Independent claim 24 has been amended to more particularly define the invention in a manner to distinguish U.S. patent no. 4,807,052 ("Amano") that was newly cited for a receiver that simultaneously stores signals emitted by a plurality of remote controls having different signal protocols. The Amano reference describes a receiver with one set of remote control codes permanently stored in a ROM 24 and the ability to learn a second set of codes from a different remote control. The second set of codes are then linked to the first, permanent set of codes by the table of Figure 3 that is stored in a programmable non-volatile memory 25. (Amano, col. 6, lns. 59 – 66.) When one of the second codes is thereafter received, the corresponding one of the first set of permanently stored signal patterns is identified from the table of Figure 3. The function to be executed is then determined by separately accessing the ROM 24 with the corresponding first signal pattern that was looked up from the table of Figure 3.

Claim 24, as amended, recites the storage of different data records for different types of remote controls such as those having different signal protocols. When a signal is being received from a remote control, the record appropriate to the type of remote control is first identified and then the signal is compared with those stored in that record to find a match. Once a match is found, the function specified in the identified record for that signal pattern is then designated to be carried out. The Amano patent, on the other hand, does not suggest a plurality of self-sufficient signal pattern records; that is, records that include a set of signal patterns and

corresponding functions that receipt of the individual patterns are to carry out. Nor does the Amano patent suggest a two step process wherein the record containing signals of the same type or protocol is first identified, followed by comparing an incoming signal pattern with those stored in the identified record.

Only one record has been found described in the Amano patent that associates a remote control signal pattern with a specified function to be performed, and that is the permanent record stored in the ROM 24. If a second set of remote control signals are captured by learning, the table of Figure 3 associates the second set of signals with those of the first permanent set that perform the same function. The function designated by one of the second set of signals requires first accessing the table of Figure 3 from the re-programmable non-volatile memory 25. This table does not include the function specified by the received second signal pattern. Therefore, the corresponding signal pattern from the first, permanent set that is identified from the memory 25 is then used to look up the function to be performed by from the ROM 24 in a second, separate step.

The manner of looking up individual signal patterns in the Amano patent first involves comparing an incoming signal pattern with those of the first set permanently stored in the ROM 24. (Amano, col. 8, lns. 19 – 27.) If it is found there, then the corresponding function is determined. But if it is not, then the signal patterns of the second set stored in the memory 25 are scanned for a match. (Amano, col. 8., lns. 39 – 47.) When a match is found, the two-step look-up process described above is then performed. This is much different than the claimed process of first identifying a record of stored signal patterns of the type or protocol of an incoming signal pattern, and then determining the function to be performed from that record by matching the incoming pattern with those of the selected record.

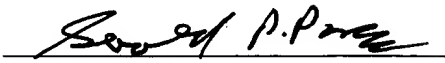
New independent claim 29, and thus also its dependent claims 30 – 31, is similar to amended claim 24 but expressed in method format. These claims are believed to be allowable for the same reasons as expressed above for claim 24.

Conclusion

Accordingly, it is believed that this application is now in condition for allowance and an early indication of its allowance is solicited. However, if the Examiner has any further matters

that need to be resolved, a telephone call to the undersigned attorney at 415-318-1163 would be appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date

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